

Art Unit: 2856

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 10, line 13, replace the phrase "(La.sub.3Ga.sub. 5SiO.sub. b.14)"
with $-(\text{La}_3\text{Ga}_5\text{SiO}_{14})-$.

2. Applicant's arguments, see Arguments/Remarks, filed 25 September 2006, with respect to claims 7, 8, and 10-26 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112/2nd paragraph rejection of claims 7, 8, and 10-26 has been withdrawn.

3. Applicant's arguments, see Arguments/Remarks, filed 25 September 2006, with respect to claims 1-26 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 102/103 rejections of claims 1-26 have been withdrawn.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest a fluid sensor employing a mechanical resonator, comprising: a resonator portion adapted for resonating in a fluid under test; and an electrical connection between the resonator portion and a source of an input signal, including at least one electrode that is at least partially covered by a dielectric material; wherein the resonator portion, the electrical connection or both includes a base material and a performance-tuning material that is different from the base material, is relatively hydrophobic, and exhibits a porosity of less than about 5% of its volume.

The prior art of record also fails to teach and/or suggest a fluid sensor employing a mechanical resonator, comprising: a resonator portion including at least two times adapted for resonating in a fluid under test; and an electrical connection including at least one electrode formed of a metal selected from gold, platinum, silver, chromium, aluminum, nickel, titanium or mixtures thereof between the resonator portion and a source of an input signal, wherein the resonator portion includes: a doped or undoped base material that exhibits a dielectric constant that is substantially constant over a temperature range from at least about 0 °C to about 100 °C,